

Rockville Environment Commission
Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, March 9, 2010
At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Julie Carr, David Davis, Kris Dighe, Beri Kravitz, Christine Davidson-McCord, and Tolu Odunlami Donna Vincent Roa

Absent: Seth Adams,

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting was convened at 7:35 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 16, 2010 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved by acclimation.

Environmental Excellence Awards

The Commission considered three nominations for 2010 Environmental Excellence Awards and unanimously approved three awards:

Joey Gould – Outstanding Individual Environmental Achievement – Mr. Gould conducted a tennis shoe recycle program at several city facilities for over a year collecting 2500 pairs of tennis shoes – enough to resurface a basketball court.

Stephen Kostka – Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement – Mr. Kostka collected stream monitoring data in the Watts Branch watershed, including the College Gardens area. He also developed and presented on “citizen involvement in stream monitoring and invasive species removal.” Finally, Mr. Kostka prepared and exhibited a poster on stream monitoring at the annual Maryland Water Monitoring Council conference.

Anne Goodman and Jim Farrelly – Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices - Ms. Goodman and Mr. Farrelly have developed a community backyard habitat program for Rockville and are pursuing National Wildlife Federation certification for both private homes and City properties. Their outreach efforts have included the development of website content, a program brochure, participation in booths at community events, and lots of one-on-one conversations and advise to residents across the community.

These successful candidates will be identified by phone call and follow up letter. These awards will be presented by the Mayor and Council at the City’s Earth Day celebration on April 22, 2010 between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm at the Town Square stage.

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Science Day, Earth Day and Hometown Holiday Preparations

Science Day is scheduled for **Sunday, April 25, 2010** at Montgomery College from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The Commission space will be staffed on a rotating order for member participation: 11:00-1:45 (David and Steve); 1:30-3:45 (Seth and Beri); and 3:30-5:30 (Kris and Julie). Tolu indicated he would attend from 2:00 to 4:00. Commissioners will be wearing T-shirts with the City's environmental logo on them.

The Commission has secured several give-away items to attract visitors to the Commission booths. The Commission has a new table top display and a watershed model to use in addition to the rain barrel and energy comparison demonstrations used in the past. There will also be factsheets, brochures and other materials on water quality and energy.

The Commission will also have a booth during the 2 hour City celebration of the 40 anniversary of **Earth Day** on **April 22** between **6-8 pm at Town Square**. Commission environmental excellence and photo awards will be presented. Photos will be judged at the next meeting Commission meeting scheduled for April 13.

Hometown Holidays is scheduled for **May 29-30**. The Commission will have a booth on Sunday, May 30th, but not Saturday. *Recycling* will be the predominant theme. The Commission identified 100 green vendors for the City Communications and Recreation and Parks offices. It also has 4 slots to fill for green presentations on the stages.

Green Building Status

The ordinance is working its way through the public process. Commissioners expressed concern that a Rockville Reports article may not have been accurate re the applicability of the ordinance vis-à-vis existing homes. There was also a brief discussion about the role of incentives to support the program.

Committee Reports:

Watershed Protection Committee –

Enhancing Communications with Residents - Members attended a February 24, 2010 OC meeting to discuss contact information for the City's community/neighborhood liaisons, and guidance on working with them. What may be the best way to get uniform information quickly to the civic associations, HOAs, Scout troops, high school students and local PTA/PTSA's. We might find some Rockville schools looking for service projects. Discussed how environmental links on City's webpage were buried and hard to find.

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A committee member also attended the State (MDE) “State of Our Streams” Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy workshop on Saturday, February 27, 2010 hosted by Montgomery County. Discussion focused on Watts Branch, Muddy Branch, and Great Seneca watersheds.

Environmental Excellence Awards - The Committee reviewed the environmental nomination for Steven Kostka (see above).

Rockville Workshops - Committee members attended and helped present the Rockville *Invasive Plant ID and Water Chemistry Training* on February 28, 2010 at Croydon Creek Nature Center. The training is required for current and potential *Save Our Stream* monitoring team members.

Saturday, April 10 – There was a regional stream cleanup effort from 9 a.m. to noon. Depart from City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave. The City provided the gloves and garbage bags.

Sunday, April 11, - There was a garlic mustard invasive species pull from 1:30-3:30 p.m., at the Croydon Creek Nature Center. The City provided gloves and bags. Student Service Learning (SSL) hours were available for student volunteers.

Rain Barrel Training

April 21, at 7-8 p.m., Croydon Creek Nature Center

Learn how to select, install and maintain rain barrels, and learn how this residential stormwater management technique helps protect City watersheds. A rain barrel will be raffled to Rockville residents. Registration required. For more information, e-mail [Audra Lew](#).

Next Committee Meeting - The April Committee meeting will be held at the Croydon Creek Nature Center in order to attend the April 21st rain barrel training.

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee – No report was presented.

Outreach and Education Committee – The Committee met and discussed a variety of potential approaches to outreach including:

- A calendar of energy tips for residents. The calendar will be posted on the City’s website. The Commission unanimously adopted the calendar.
- David Davis distributed the mock up for the new table-top display. It will be velcroed to the display board. The Commission unanimously adopted the design. Developing a one page handout or magnet that describes unique recycling opportunities available to Rockville residents.

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- The design for T-shirts to be worn by Commissioners at public events was circulated for comment.
- On February 24, the Outreach and Education Committee met with the Water Quality Committee and discussed improvements in inter-group communications.
- The Committee is working with Richie Park Elementary School on sustainability and recycling themes. The Committee has also approached Cable Channel 11 to air youth environmental programs in the future.

Environmental Management Report by Mark Charles

- City plans to issue a proclamation and a press release recognizing Earth Hour, scheduled for March 27. The Commission plans to circulate via Facebook
- City staff has been active in pursuing legislation (SB 686 & HB 999) that would require local governments to adopt a stormwater fee program. We believe this legislation could be helpful in resolving the current conflict with Montgomery County.
- Stormwater Ordinance (City Code Chapter 19) Discussion & Instruction with the Mayor and Council is expected to take place on April 5 (but has since been rescheduled to May 10; with adoption now targeted for May 24).
- Green Building D&I with the Mayor and Council is scheduled for April 5. Adoption is now planned for May 10.
- We will be filling the part time Watershed Specialist in April.

Filling a Commission Vacancy

Commissioner Tolu Odunlami announced he does not intend to seek reappointment to the Commission when his term is up on May 1, 2010. Mr. Odunlami is the longest tenured member of the Commission. The Commission will begin searching for a replacement. Interested individuals should contact a Commissioner or the Environmental Management Staff of the City.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 13, 2010** at **7:30 pm** at **Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.**